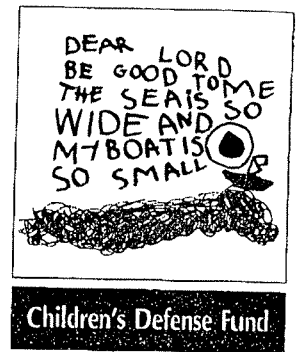


July 27, 2004



Congressman Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hoyer,

Thank you for introducing H.R. 4585, the Full-Service Community Schools Act. It is necessary legislation that will support better coordination and provision of children's services at school sites.

The mission of the Children's Defense Fund is to Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. This bill would go a long way to realizing CDF's mission because it acknowledges that children do not come in pieces. For children to succeed in school, all of their needs must be addressed, whether they are related to health, mental health, nutrition, housing, family income, juvenile justice or child welfare.

Federal leadership and support for schools that are willing to collaborate to provide their students with necessary services in a comprehensive, coordinated and effective way is a critical step to ensuring that children are able to learn at the highest levels and succeed. We thank you for your leadership on this and other children's issues and look forward to working with you to secure the passage of this very important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jill Morningstar
Co-Director of Education and Youth Development

25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone 202 628 8787
Fax 202 662 3510
E-mail
cdfinfo@childrensdefense.org
Internet
www.childrensdefense.org